

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 23, 45 and 46 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 23, 45 and 46 being independent. Claims 5, 7-9 and 11-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 23, 45 and 46 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-17, 23, 45 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,012,809 (Ikeda et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,149,327 (Ward et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of the independent claims recites, inter alia, that after recording on a first recording side of a recording medium, the recording medium is conveyed to a recording medium waiting position such that the conveyed recording medium comes close to reversing means for reversing the recording medium, and then after waiting for a period corresponding to a set length of time at the recording medium waiting position, the recording medium is conveyed to a position opposed to recording means so as to conduct recording on the second recording side of the recording medium.

With the claimed arrangement and methods, the recording medium can wait, not at a location where recording on the first or front side is completed, but rather at a position where the recording medium is conveyed as to come close to the reversing means. Accordingly, a time required for the recording medium to be reversed and conveyed to a recording head at the start of recording on the second or rear side can be shortened.

Ikeda et al. relates to an ink jet recording method and apparatus that can operate in single- or two-sided recording modes. In two-sided recording, after the end of recording on a front side, the recording medium is again conveyed, via reversible conveying path 34, reversible pocket portion 35 and reconveying passage 36, to a position where it is opposed to a recording head and recording on a rear side is performed at that position. However, as recognized by the Examiner, Ikeda et al. does not disclose or suggest variably setting a time length between an end of recording on a first recording side and a start of recording on the second recording side, as is recited in each of the independent claims, and thus cannot disclose or suggest conveying to a recording medium waiting position where the recording medium waits during the set length of time.

Thus, Ikeda et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Ward et al. relates to an ink jet printing method and apparatus that can control the drying time. The apparatus includes a duplex media handling system for reversing the recording medium when two-sided recording is desired. As shown in Fig. 6, the medium sheet M is fed through a print zone 120 into an output region 122, which can include an output tray in some embodiments. In simplex or duplex printing, the media sheet waits at the output region 122 for an estimated drying time before another sheet is picked up and fed along the media path or before being reconveyed past print source 12 to the duplex handling system to be reversed for printing on the reverse side. However, this waiting position in Ward et al. is the output region 122 and is a position where the medium is stopped after recording on the first side is completed. The medium in Ward et al. is not

conveyed after recording on the first side in duplex recording. That is, the trailing edge of the media sheet is not released during the first-side printing. Accordingly, even if the teachings of Ward et al. were combined with Ikeda et al., there is no disclosure or suggestion that after recording on the first recording side of the recording medium, the recording medium would be conveyed to a recording medium waiting position such that the conveyed recording medium comes close to the reversing means. Rather, the recording medium would be held in a waiting position after recording and not conveyed to any waiting position after recording. Moreover, in feeding the medium to its waiting position during recording, the medium is conveyed away from, not to come close to, the duplex handling system 22.

Thus, Ward et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Ikeda et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 23, 45 and 46 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 23, 45 and 46. Dependent Claims 2-4, 6 and 10 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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